

"Transcend the Ordinary"

Iyar - Sivan - Tamuz - Av 5784

June - August 2024

WANDERING THE WILDERNESS THIS PRIDE

By RABBI MYCHAL COPELAND



I recently watched two mini-series, *A League of Their Own* and *Fellow Travelers*, about lesbian and gay life in the 1940s and '50's, respectively. In both eras, characters lived completely closeted lives, fearful that if found out, their entire world would crumble. That was the reality for many of our earliest Sha'ar Zahav members and for some, it still is.

I'm sure I am not alone in being grateful that I was born into the present time period. But I worry that we are taking too big a sigh of relief. We have seen great strides for our LGBTQI community, especially here in our state. But our rights are threatened all over our country. Just this year, 544 anti-LGBT bills have been introduced and 21 have passed. Trans people are fleeing their homes for states like ours in search

of gender affirming healthcare, education, and safety. We are witnessing an onslaught on our community, a well-coordinated campaign that has even seen some success in corners of our golden state: proposed book bans, at least one city banning Pride flags on government buildings, and a shop owner murdered for flying the flag.

This has been a painful year for our community on many fronts. In our Torah reading this Pride month, we enter *Bamidbar*, the wilderness, as the Israelites in our saga wander through liminal, uncertain time and space. How will we come through this wilderness?

Pride started as a protest. Amidst the Pride parties and glitter, I hope we can take stock of where we are and where we hope to be in the future. I want people in 80 years to say, "Wow, we have it so good now! Look what they had to endure back in 2024." How will we, as a community committed to LGBTQI justice, ensure that we keep moving forward? To get involved in our queer activism group at SZ, please reach out to me.

**DISABILITY &
ACCESSIBILITY
COMMITTEE**

pg. 5

KADIMAH! ONWARDS!

By DEBORAH LEVY



This is my last JGF column as President. It has been an honor – and, yes, a challenge – to serve the community in this role. I'm proud of what I have accomplished, in close collaboration and with the support of many. I end my term with new skilled professional

staff in place to manage our operations (ED Danny Shapiro) and children's education programming (Educator Rabbi Q), and with a new pilot program – the Welcome Home Project supporting our TGNC community and Journey to Judaism program – funded for 30 months and staffed by the wonderful Rabbi Reuben Zellman. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve, and of all I have learned.

Considering the diverse voices, needs, and desires of our wide-reaching congregation is both the blessing and the challenge of this service. The diversity we value so deeply

requires us to spend time hearing each other, so that we can meet the community's needs, maintain a connected and loving community, and reap the benefits that come with diverse input.

Clear policies and procedures are important guides in an organization such as ours, and we've passed a number of new policies and revisions (including two sets of Bylaws) in my term as president. Still, new situations often arise that don't fit neatly into frameworks we've used in the past. This has certainly been the case recently – from the ever-changing territory of the post-pandemic world to the tragic events in Israel and Palestine on and since October 7. I love that, as a community, Sha'ar Zahavniks are willing and eager to parse through complex issues, seeking nuance and paths forward that best serve us all. And I am grateful for the policies, practices, and traditions thoughtfully developed over time that help us move forward when consensus isn't possible. The cycle of grappling with and clarifying the who, what, when, and how of Sha'ar Zahav decision-making and practice will

Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco CA 94103

VOICE 415-861-6932

WEB <https://www.shaarzahav.org>

Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, California Interfaith Power & Light, and the San Francisco Interfaith Council

Our Journey to Judaism program is supported by grants from the National Center to Encourage Judaism

Sha'ar Zahav Staff**SENIOR CLERGY**

Rabbi Mychal Copeland (she/her)
rabbi@shaarzahav.org

Cantor Sharon Bernstein (she/her)
cantorbernstein@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Danny Shapiro (he/him)
danny@shaarzahav.org

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Rabbi Q (Lisa Levenberg, she/her)
educator@shaarzahav.org

ASSISTANT DIR. OF ADMINISTRATION

Kerasa Tsokas (she/her)
kerasa@shaarzahav.org

WELCOME HOME PROJECT

Rabbi Reuben Zellman (he/they)
rabbireuben@shaarzahav.org

Officers

PRESIDENT Deborah Levy
president@shaarzahav.org

VICE PRESIDENT Mike Shriver
Rachel Nilson Ralston
Emily Ornelas-Dorian

RECORDER Morey Lipsett
TREASURER Martin Tilzer

continue, as our next President and Va'ad take office in July. It is a cherry-on-top moment for me to turn over leadership to the wonderful and talented Mike Shriver and the team he has built.

Thank you for the trust you have put in me over the past two years.

SHA'AR ZAHAV / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By DANNY SHAPIRO



It's only been a few months since I began as the Executive Director, and Sha'ar Zahav is already starting to feel like home. I'm getting to know many of our amazing members through my participation in Va'ad meetings and committees, and by attending Shabbat

services, holidays, and educational events. Sha'ar Zahav has exemplified hospitality, starting from my interview weekend through today. I'm so impressed by the dedication and generosity of so many of our members.

I'm often asked why I, as a rabbi, came to serve Sha'ar Zahav as the Executive Director. I've always been drawn to build supportive, inclusive, and welcoming

communities, and Sha'ar Zahav provided me with a fantastic opportunity to do so. In my past roles I've found joy in providing for the material needs of the Jewish community, and am happy to leave the spirituality, pastoral counseling, and observances to our amazing clergy team. I have found my own path to serve the Jewish people in the Executive Director role at Sha'ar Zahav.

With all that being said, there's a lot that needs to get done to run our beautiful Sha'ar Zahav community. I've jumped right into administration with my first major focus being on fundraising, accounting, and budgeting. I began working at SZ as the main phase of Welcome Home Project fundraising was wrapping up, with 77% of the 30-month funding secured. If you haven't yet had the chance to be part of this amazing project in memory of Paul Cohen and Ray

(continued on page 4)

Va'ad Members

Claudia Bernard, Barbara Cymrot, Meagan Fox, Brad Friedman, Franco Martinez, Josh Muller, Tirtza Pearl, Ruth Schoenbach, Alyss Weissglass

Membership

Danny Shapiro
danny@shaarzahav.org

Hineni Caring Community

If you need help or can volunteer to help other Sha'ar Zahav members in need:
webmarla@me.com

Jewish Gaily Forward

Read the JGF online:
<https://www.shaarzahav.org/newsletter/>

EDITORIAL TEAM

Ann Daniels, Mark Mackler, Sharyn Saslafsky, Andrew Williamson

To reach the JGF editorial team:
jgf@shaarzahav.org

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Hien Nguyen: hien.h.nguyen@hotmail.com

JGF is published with a generous donation from Jan Half.

Permission to reprint with attribution granted. Articles reflect the opinion of their authors and

not those of Sha'ar Zahav. Proofing errors will be atoned for each Yom Kippur. The Jewish Gaily Forward is published four times a year: September, December, March, and June. To submit an article, please contact jgf@shaarzahav.org for info about deadlines, editorial requirements and length requirements.

ADVERTISERS: contact
jgf@shaarzahav.org

Sha'ar Zahav reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

Specifications supplied upon request.

(continued from page 3)

Bernstein, please be in touch. Almost immediately after, I began planning for our Rainbow Campaign with our hard-working Resource Development Committee. As of this writing we are at 94% of our goal, thanks to everyone who contributed so generously! Now we're in the process of finalizing next year's budget, and very soon our annual membership drive will begin.

Of course, finances are just one aspect of the executive director's role. You'll have the chance to read more details in my report for our upcoming annual meeting. I hope to see you there, and if we haven't had a chance to meet, please reach out and introduce yourself!

SHA'AR ZAHAV EDUCATION

By RABBI Q



Looking for a Baby Chavurah? We've got you! Over the past few years, a number of Sha'ar Zahav members have become parents; and many Jewish families who live nearby have discovered Sha'ar Zahav's strong culture of activism,

inclusion, and celebration of diversity and said, "This is the kind of community I want for my children." These folks then attract other folks, and then, before you know it, a mailing list has been created. (That's how you know you're really official!) Some of these people are now SZ members, and others are part of the wider circle that often move toward official membership over time.

During the pandemic, while buildings were closed, a few families started meeting for Shabbat play days at local parks, a tradition that has continued even now that structured programs at various Jewish organizations have resumed. Occasionally, Sha'ar Zahav has offered age-specific events such as a "Three Stars" Havdalah group and Tot

Shabbat, but we also try to incorporate or add on child-friendly activities to larger Sha'ar Zahav celebrations and events. For example, dozens of families joined us on Purim Night, and Liz Jaroslow also organized a side room of activities during the Congregational Seder.

While some of this growth is a result of our programs, most of it is truly an organic response to initiatives begun by the parents themselves. In addition to the park days mentioned above, this year the Baby Chavurah has begun sharing Shabbat dinners! About once a month, a different family opens their home, and folks sign up to bring a dish to share. The community that is emerging among this cluster of toddlers and their parents is so beautiful. They are seeking a "village" in which to raise their kids. It's an opportunity for Sha'ar Zahav to both nurture this group and be nurtured by it! If you know of a family who would like to be added to the list, or if you are a volunteer who likes organizing holiday activities for little ones, email educator@shaarzahav.org.

DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

By ANN DANIELS

Did you know that over a quarter of those who answered SZ's congregational survey identified as disabled or having functional impairments? Or that access means so much more than elevators or ramps? SZ's Disability and Accessibility Committee (D&A) is committed to advancing access within the SZ community, and in the broader Jewish community, through education, dialogue, and action. We're one of SZ's newest committees, but we're proud of our accomplishments - and our plans. Some of our highlights:

- Leadership Advances on disability rights, disability justice, and inclusivity at SZ - fully interactive events modeling thoughtful use of technology bringing together in person and online attendees
- Zoom events, including a panel discussion on the Academy Award-nominated film *Crip Camp* featuring individuals from the film, and two speaker events with Rabbi Julia Watts Belser
- Our hostx (short for "Hostx with the Mostx") program at services and events, with a Zoom attendee welcoming others and serving as a resource for those on Zoom
- An accessibility survey, identifying SZ members' diverse access needs for both online and in-person participation

Future plans include:

- Continuing with "next steps" from the Leadership Advances
- Organizing speakers, panel events, and creating a training on disability rights and justice for the wider Jewish community
- Creating accessibility information for the

SZ website

- Working with staff to create accessibility criteria as part of a new SZ event planning form, and to optimize access for kids and families
- Working with staff, clergy, and other community leaders to improve the hybrid experience. D&A's long-term goal envisions a single community, with participation by and interaction between those on zoom and those who attend in person
- Working to improve in-person access, to allow anyone to receive the accommodations that they need, when reasonably possible

We believe that we are one sacred community, no matter where we are or how we show up. We are deeply grateful to leadership, staff, the tech crew, and the Social Action and Climate Action Committees, among others, for collaborating to create accessible events and make SZ a more welcoming and accessible community for all. We welcome you to join this work! You can contact us at DisabilityAndAccessibility@gmail.com.

Read the JGF Online!

The JGF can be found online.

Read current and previous issues at:

<https://www.shaarzahav.org/newsletter>

We are grateful to all our donors! Your generosity supports everything that Sha'ar Zahav does. This issue lists donations through April 20. Later donations will be acknowledged in the next issue.

General Fund

Michael Chasnow

Jessie Ap'neva and Nina Wouk

Jim Frazin

Sarah Klevan and Dylan Beighley

Brad and Irene Friedman

Oleg Korsunsky

David Kover and Dagny Dingman

Ruth Landy

Michelle Lerman and Sam McCandish

Jessica Richman

Michael Peirce

Daniel Loftus

Gerald Rich McCartney

Juno Obedin-Maliver

David Stein and Bill Stewart
in honor of Music in the Mishkan

Steven Elman and Tom Holt
in memory of Joseph Barth
in memory of Dora Elman
in memory of Ruth Tyler

Michele and Tim Hermann
in celebration of Madeline Hermann
and Jordan Francis' marriage

Marty Tilzer and Jeff Piade
in honor of Mike Shriver

Cliff Bargar

David Sanchez

Karen Schiller
in memory of Ruth Tyler

Ruth Landy

Brad and Irene Friedman

Nancy Huntington Stager
in memory of Ruth Tyler

Wayne Bender and Junichi Nakajima
in memory of their dear friend Judy
Woo

Kerasa Tsokas

Robert Tat
in memory of Harvey Chertok

Stephen Shotland
in memory of Paul Cohen

James Carlson
in memory of his father, Ray Carlson

Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz
in memory of Harvey Chertok

Linda Kay Marchena
in celebration of Mike Klayman

Richard Meyerson
in memory of Michael Chertok's father

Danielle Bellon
in celebration of Alex Ingersoll's
birthday

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Michael Gitt and Steve Anderson

Nancy Levin
in memory of Becky Smith

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Michael Tyler and Amy Schustack
in memory of Michael's beloved
mother, Ruth Tyler z"l

Karen Schiller
In memory of her mother, Bobbi

Schiller, and her grandmother, Martha Landman

Jonathan Pannor

Nancy Levin

in memory of Becky Smith

Rabbi Julius and Pearl Funk Music Fund

Jonathan Pannor

Social Action Fund

Jan Half and Sharyn Saslafsky

in memory of Michael Chertok's father
Harvey Chertok

Rainbow Fund

Jessie Ap'neva and Nina Wouk

Paul Bendix

Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter

James Carlson

Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum

Tiela Chalmers and Kailin Koch

Arthur Cohen

Barb Cymrot

Ann Daniels and Jonathan Zingman

Jim Edlin and Eve Meyer

Meagan and Martin Fox

Ernest and Kathleen Friedlander

Brad and Irene Friedman

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold

David Gellman and Salo Rawet

Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara

Sara Haber and Beth Sousa

Stephanie Hannaford and Chirstine Witzel

Ira Hirschfield and Tom Hansen

Michael Hulton and David Stewart

Liz Jaroslow and Marc Lipsett

Yoel Kahn

Anna and Josh Katz

Judith Katz

Sherie Koshover

Scott Kramer

Tom Lakritz

Marc Lipschutz

Franco Martinez

Steve Mazer

Tom Medin and Edward Fristoe

Deldelp Medina

Eric and Eleyne Milstein

Drew Parker-Rose and Flavio Epstein

Jeffrey Piade

Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz

Adam Pollack

Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver

Michael and Jane Rice

Jacob Robinson

Andy Schwartz

Susan Schwartz

Susan Tubbesing and Sarah Nathe

Michael Tyler, Amy Schustack, and Scott Kramer

Andrew Williamson and Michele Sullivan

Judith Wolfe and Jennifer Hughes

Neil Young

Deborah Udin

Elliott Sprehn and Rachel Nancollas

Tirtza Pearl and Barry Pearl

Laurie Trupin and Beth Ross

Emily Ornelas-Dorian and Carolina Ornelas-Dorian

Eileen Lynette and Char O'Neil

Christine Young and David Gluck

Nancy Muller and Donna Blow

in honor of Va'ad Member Joshua Muller

Lillian Schaechner and Elaine Weissman

Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado

in honor of Steve Mazer and Sara Haber

Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman

Diana Buchinder and Jeane Redsecker

Patricia Caplan and Jonathan Simonoff

Stuart Dick and Joseph Sieger

in honor of all the caregivers who support our community

Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann

Nancy Wecker and Lisa Wuennenberg

Sarah Grams and Lisa Finkelstein

in memory of Les Finkelstein z"l

Paisha Rochlin and Marvin Lehrman

Deborah Farkas and Mary Faria

Ruth Bernstein and Matthew Patchell

Gina Surber and Merle Malakoff

in memory of Gilbert and Iris Malakoff

Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz

Alana Herron and Rob Geller

Michael Bettinger and Robert Goldstein

Martin Rawlings-Fein and Shelli

Rawlings-Fein

Annette Spector and Stephen Spector

Michael Shriver and Susan Wolfson

Alisa Dichter and Timothy Lesle

Ann Atura Bushnell and Tyler Atura

Bushnell

Mark Mackler and Wendell Choo

Christopher P. Archuleta

in celebration of Kaleb Goldstein and Hailee Brittingham's wedding

in celebration of Christina Snell and Phil Pollard's wedding

in celebration of Malkam and Apurva's wedding

in memory of William S. (Bill) Goldstein z"l

Ruth Schoenbach and Lynn Eden

in honor of Martin Tannenbaum for his tireless work to keep Sha'ar Zahav solvent!

Rachel and Richard Ralston

in honor of Deborah Levy and her dedication as our president

Erika Katske and Reuben Zellman

Steven Elman and Tom Holt

in memory of Judith Brooke

Mark Pressler and Robert Tannenbaum

Charles Spiegel

Maggid Eli Andrew Ramer

in memory of Suzanne Shepherd

Wayne Bender and Junichi Nakajima

Rose Katz

in honor of Deborah Levy's presidency

Rabbi Lisa Levenberg

in celebration of Carol Rosenberg's continued health

Geri Kahn

Larry Wexler

Debra Reabock

Jonathan Zimman

Julie Mamet

Nancy Meyer

Robert Tat

Catherine Armstrong

Watson Ladd

Reva Luftman

Lisa Danzig

Mark Leno

Deanne Edwards

Nick Friedman

Donald Fischer

Neil J Young

Andy Fyne

Julia DeIuliis

Janis Portal

Danny Shapiro

Robert Katz

Eliana Smithstein

Bonnie Kates

David Lowe

Benny Lunine

Ron Lezell

Michael O'Rourke

Howard Hahn

Jonathan Pannor

Jo Ellen Kaiser

Gina Roccanova

Sharyn Saslafsky

Richard Meyerson

Philip Charney

Karen Schiller

Joshua Muller

Alyss Weissglass

Martin Tilzer

Deborah Pollak Levy

Morey Lipsett

Howard Steiermann

in honor of Danny Shapiro

Michael Gitt

in honor of his husband, Steve
Anderson

Jason Feinberg

in memory of Lawrence Feinberg

Joseph Feiner

in memory of Donald Feiner

Charles Spiegel

in honor of Eric and Amy Tyson

Marjorie Hilsenrad

in honor of Judy Huerta

Jane Kenner

in memory of Etta Simon

Ron Edelman

in memory of Florence Nacamulli and
Paul Cohen

Ami Zusman

in honor of Rabbi Copeland, Cantor
Bernstein and our amazing lay
leadership

Nancy Levin

in memory of Ira A. Levin

Jan Half

in honor of her wife, Sharyn Saslafsky

The Welcome Home Project

*in memory of Paul Cohen z"l and Ray
Bernstein z"l:*

Donald Fischer

in memory of Harvey Chertok, beloved
father of Michael Chertok

Larry Wexler

Sharyn Saslafsky

Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara

in memory of Ray Bernstein z"l:

Judith Wolfe and Jennifer Hughes

in memory of Harvey Chertok

MARCH*Flowers Sponsors:***Jeff and Lynne Piade**

in memory of their father, Joseph Piade

Kerasa Tsokas

in memory of her father, Dimitrios Tsokas

James Carlson

in memory of his husband, James Roginski

Jason Feinberg

in memory of his twin brother, Lawrence Feinberg

*Oneg Sponsors:***Martin Tannenbaum and Alex Ingersoll**

in memory of Larry Tannenbaum

*Zoom Sponsors:***Nancy Wecker and Lisa Wuennenberg**

in memory of Irving Wecker, father of Nancy Wecker and father-in-law of Lisa Wuennenberg

APRIL*Flowers Sponsors:***Howard Hahn**

in memory of my father (and Sha'ar Zahav member), Fred Hahn

*Oneg Sponsors:***Geri Kahn**

in memory of her father, Howard Kahn

MAY*Oneg Sponsors:***Tom Medin**

in honor of his grandmother, Caroline Levitt

in honor of his mother, Dr. Julia Adele Medin

Marty Tilzer

in memory of his mother, Rae Tilzer

*Kiddush Sponsors:***Tom Medin**

in honor of his father, Dr. Aaron Louis Medin

in honor of his mother, Dr. Julia Adele Medin

SHA'AR ZAHAV / MAZEL TOV

Got something to celebrate? Send your Mazel Tov Announcements to office@shaarzahav.org to be included in future newsletters.

APRIL**Jordan Francis (he/him) and Madeline Hermann (she/her)**

on their wedding

Daniel Redman and Olaf Mathe

on the birth of Torbjörn Isaac Redman-Mathé

Savta Deborah Levy, long-ago BSPM graduate Josh Levy, and his wife Joanne Agus

on the birth of Noah S Levy

Hilary Zaid

on being awarded the Publishing Triangle's Betty Berzon Emerging Writer Award

Rabbi Copeland

on being invited to give the opening blessing at the annual California State Senate Yom Hashoah commemoration. She spoke about our broken world and the imperative for each of us to mend it.

NOVEMBER**Josephine Williams (she/her)****DECEMBER****Sarah Dizio (she/her)****JANUARY****Madeline Hermann (she/her) and Jordan Francis (he/him)****FEBRUARY****Beth Berenson (she/her)****Jordan Francis (he/him) and Madeline Hermann (she/her)****Sarah DiZio (she/her)****Hadar Aviram (she/her)****Neil Grungras (he/him)****Demir Barak (he/him)****MARCH****Joshua Selesnick (he/him) and Dvorah Lewis (she/her)****Kimberly Balsam (she/they)****Lorraine Weir (she/her)****APRIL****Mary Crawford (she/her)****Mitch (he/him) and Lauren Spierer (she/her)****Carlos Zamora Hernandez (he/him)****Michael Argenyi (he/him)****In Memoriam**

The congregation notes with sorrow the deaths of:

MARCH**Bonnie Faye Magid**

mother of Cheryl Magid

Harvey Chertok

father of Michael Chertok

Iris Malakoff

mother of Merle Malakoff, mother-in-law of Gina Surber and grandmother of Max and Ben Malakoff

Ruth Tyler

mother of Michael Tyler and mother-in-law of Amy Schustack

Bob deTulio

friend of James Carlson

APRIL**Wayne Hamilton**

cousin of Donna Fein and Shelli Rawlings-Fein

Fred Wolinsky

cousin of Deborah Levy

Ruth Brenner

friend of Martin Tannenbaum and Alex Ingersoll

Joan B. Carlin

aunt of Ina Turpen Fried

Rae Ann Wirth

friend of Anthony Harris

Harold Raphael

uncle of Martin Tannenbaum

JUNE

Mark B. Feldman
Janet Gaby
Robert Nehemiah Mackey
Duff Kreitzberg
Brian Ellis
Albert Stern
Barry Siegel
Richard Rath
Joe Zygielbaum
David Shaber

JULY

Judy Macks
Herb Siegel
Edwin Gabay
Matthew Rostoker
David Roy Custead
Alexander Louis Konski
Gili Patir
Ron Miguel
Rachel Mailman
Eli Shaber
Sarah Schumann
Jeanette Klein
Seth Miller
Sam Thal
Phillip Resnick

AUGUST

David H. Kotch
Hal Podgur
Jordan Berger
Allan Berenstein
Ernie Weinstein
Jay Platt
Madelyn Gross Walters
Mark Landsberger
Shoshana Levenberg
Michael Zimmerman
Maria Bautista
Peter Rosenfeld
Elliot Schneck
Alex Smith
Jay Feinstein

Thank you for your donations!

Your contributions help us realize our commitment to building and maintaining a vibrant, living community for Sha'ar Zahav. A donation can be a meaningful way to honor friends or family, engagements, anniversaries, graduations, for special thanks, or to memorialize a loved one. Collectively, with your financial support, we continue to prosper, grow, and celebrate our future.

Adam Solomon-Carmel



Adam Solomon-Carmel will be called to the bimah as a bar mitzvah on August 24. Adam lives in the Inner Sunset with his parents, his sister Noa, and their two cats. He is a 7th grader at San Francisco Schoolhouse. He enjoys geography, history, video games, sports, and baking.

OUR BEAUTIFUL SZ GARDEN

By KAREN SCHILLER

If you've walked by 290 Dolores, you must have noticed the beautiful garden in front of our building and surrounding one of the trees in front. Thanks to Juan Patiño and his partner, SZ member Bob Gordon, the garden is filled with bright, colorful flowers and greenery and is a delight to behold.

Juan, a retired chef, grew up in a small village in Mexico and began working in the sugar cane fields when he was seven, dropping out of school when he was eight to work fulltime. He came to the US in 1989, and he and Bob met in a local dance club 28 years ago. Juan has been creating gardens since he was 17 and built his own house in his village in Jalisco, Mexico; over time he planted 100 rose bushes there. Unfortunately, the studio apartment that he and Bob share a few blocks from SZ doesn't have a garden, so when Juan saw the garden area in front of our building, he and Bob asked Rabbi Copeland if Juan could garden there. Of course, she said yes! (The garden area was originally cultivated by our former educator Sue Bojdak and students from BSPM.)

Juan, with help from Bob, planted fuchsias, calla lilies, gladioli, dahlias, poppies and other flowering plants, succulents, cucumbers, and even some corn and a banana tree (just to see if it would grow). He comes by weekly and spends a few hours; when Juan was back in Mexico for a few months, Bob stepped in to weed and water. Bob said, "The garden needed Juan's hands in there. He has the skills to grow anything. Whether cooking or gardening, he can do it all."

If you see Juan working in the garden or at Friday night services with Bob, please take a moment to appreciate the beauty he has brought to our building.



Photo credit: Bob Gordon



Photo credit: Juan Patiño

LIMELIGHT ON LEGACY

By IRENE OGUS

I joined SZ in 1979 and paid \$18 in annual dues. I became Treasurer a couple of years later - our budget was about \$70,000. We had no building, office or financial reserves - just hoped that we could pay the monthly rent, the Rabbi and the bills. Forty-five years later, we have a staff of eight and \$4 million in assets, including a valuable piece of real estate and financial reserves in the form of our Endowment Fund, made up of SZ members' bequests of money, property, and other assets.

Our journey includes the migration of hundreds of LGBTQI Jews, people interested in Judaism, and others who simply found SZ a haven for spiritual renewal, comfort, and solace. We became a community, a chosen family. As we grew, we struggled with gender power issues, accommodating kids, expanding understanding about gender and sexual identities, a potpourri of religious observances, owning a building vs renting, Hebrew vs English, a Kosher kitchen (or not), security issues, even seating. As we respectfully worked through all these, we kept the spirit of *shalom bayit* (peace in the house). Trust in leadership grew, we embraced the "greater good" decision-making concept. We bought a house, we

aged, and we started looking for attorneys to set up our wills and trusts.

Early in 2011, the Jewish Community Federation recognized that SF synagogues had not planned for the future. They created a Legacy program and assigned us a fundraising coach, who helped us launch our Legacy campaign. As of this writing, almost 100 members have provided signed Letters of Intent to leave a bequest to Sha'ar Zahav - a simple document informing the trustee/executor that a member intends to leave a portion of their estate to SZ. Some are still around; some have died, and their legacy gifts are held in our Endowment Fund, giving us a level of financial security we could never have imagined 45 years ago.

Our Endowment has enriched programs and has allowed us to set up exciting new endeavors. I am now passing my leadership in this campaign on to others but I hope you will consider joining me and many of your fellow SZ-niks in leaving a bequest to SZ. Your legacy gift can support our beloved community now and into the future. For more information, please contact Alex Ingersoll, ingersollax@earthlink.net, 415-309-0237.

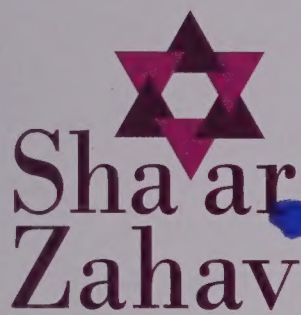
We Want Your Photographs!

Do you have digital photographs or video of Sha'ar Zahav activities or events? The Archives Project would like to add copies to our growing photography and video library as we document the history of Sha'ar Zahav.

Please contact Lawrence Helman (heytheresells@gmail.com) or Robert Tat (rob@roberttat.com) for more information.

If you would like to join the team working on organizing our archival document materials, please contact Ron Lezell at Lezell.ron@gmail.com

Advertise in the JGF!



Let the Sha'ar Zahav
community – and all our
friends – know about your
business or services!

Contact: office@shaarzahav.org

2023-4 Display Advertising Pricelist

Ad size	Ad size in inches	Ad size in picas	Members	Nonmembers	Note
1/12 page	2.25 x 2.25	13p6 x 13p6	\$45.00	\$55.00	
1/6 page	2.25 x 4.5	13p6 x 27p	\$75.00	\$90.00	10% discount for four issues: must be prepaid
2-col box	4.625 x 4.5	27p9 x 27p	\$250.00	\$165.00	15% discount for four issues: must be prepaid
1/2 page horiz	7 x 4.5	42p x 30p	\$170.00	\$220.00	20% discount for four issues: must be prepaid
Full page*	7 x 10.5	42p x 63p	\$305.00	\$365.00	25% discount for four issues: must be prepaid

*Inquire as to availability

Please note: Advertising deadline for our next issue is July 20th!

Nourish your values with your investments

- Holistic personal financial planning aligned with your progressive values
- Fee-only* CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® practitioner specializing in Socially Responsible Investments
- Small business retirement plans and consulting
- Free initial consultation



Jim Frazin, CFP®, AIF®

415.337.4566 x 101

jim@CommunitasFinancial.com

Jim Frazin, is an Investment Advisory Representative of Communitas Financial Planning Inc, an independent investment advisory firm registered in California. *No product sales. 8/9/12

Hills of Eternity Memorial Park

Home of Peace Cemetery

Salem Memorial Park

Serving Northern California's Jewish Community Since 1850

- Dedicated section for congregants
- In-Ground Burial Plots
- Indoor and Garden Mausoleum Crypts
- Niche and In-Ground Urn Gardens
- Convenient Payment Plans

**For an appointment,
please call 650.755.4700**

Susan Solomon, Executive Director
Benjamin J. Ruhs, Director of Sales

1299 El Camino Real
Colma, CA 94014-3238

www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org

Congregation

Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco CA 94103
Voice 415 861 6932
Web www.shaarzahav.org
Rabbi Mychal Copeland
Cantor Sharon Bernstein

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

San Francisco, CA

Permit # 12628

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

San Francisco, CA 94103-2002

Permit # 12628

Celebrate Pride with Sha'ar Zahav!

See all our events at shaarzahav.org/pride and watch the weekly email.



Sha'ar Zahav contingent in the 1992 Pride Parade. Photo from the Sha'ar Zahav archives project.

Do you have digital photographs or video of Sha'ar Zahav activities or events? The Archives Project, documenting our history, would like to have copies. Contact Lawrence Helman (heytheresells@gmail.com) or Robert Tat (rob@roberttat.com)